

## **UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS – April 5, 2008**

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans called to order at 10:05 a.m. with proper ceremonies. The roll call revealed that all officers were present and a quorum was established. The minutes of the previous were accepted as written by a motion from Linda Fulkerson. The Treasurer's report was accepted by a motion by Lew Bradley, seconded and carried.

Introductions: Steve Perry representing Annie Loyd, Gabe Forsberg and Diane D'Angelo from ADVS were introduced.

Sickness and Distress: Chaplain Bohach reported that Mike Clemenson recently had a stroke; he is in St. Joseph's Hospital. Wayne Early, husband of former ADVS Exec. Assistant Doris Early, passed away. Hall of Fame members Bill Toy and Ann Krizanauskas passed away. Lionel Sanchez has been ill. The location where Bill Krause is living is still questionable; the Secretary will locate him and send information through e-mail. Bo also advised that he has free tickets to baseball games if anyone is interested.

### **Presentation**

Gabe Forsberg explained what her area, Plans, Outreach, and Committees (POC) does in the ADVS area which includes strategic planning, outreach support for the Veterans' Service Office with publications and materials, and committees which includes staffing the Advisory Commission. She advised that several methods of fund-raising are being investigated.

Gabe left information about a golf tournament and silent auction hosted by Boots for OUR Troops to benefit the National Guard's Emergency Relief Fund. The event will be May 22nd, cost is \$300 per player. For more information call (480) 250-3992.

Diane D'Angelo who coordinates the agency's homeless veterans program and the Military Family Relief Fund (MRFF) was introduced. The MRFF is funded by donations including an eligible tax credit for up to \$200 per individual.

### **Reports**

ADVS Deputy Director Mike Klier addressed the following topics:

- Utilizing the VBC's to do outreach is working out well. One of the VBC's attended the Ostrich Festival and was able to reach out to many people.
- The State hiring freeze allows for exemptions for certain positions including health-care providers. ADVS filed for an exemption for a VBC in Chinle; the request was denied. ADVS will ask the Department of Administration to revisit based on that position being mission-critical.
- Mr. Klier discussed the need for support of the Veterans Donation Fund and answered questions about the income, expenditures, balance, and needs of the fund.

The following items were discussed at the Executive Board meeting prior to the regular meeting:

- A business plan for the 2008 Veterans Hall of Fame is being developed.
- It is anticipated that VFW will have a representative appointed and will send their dues.
- Gary Fredricks continues to investigate incorporation.

Webb Ellis and Lew Bradley formed the nominating committee for officers for 2008-09. Their recommendations are:

Chairman – Gary Fredricks (Military Officers of America Assoc.)

Vice Chairman – Mel Brody (Jewish War Veterans)  
Secretary – Carol Culbertson (Naval Reserve Assoc.)  
Treasurer – Donna Adams (Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary)  
Board of Directors – Jesse Gersten (Jewish War Veterans)  
Board of Directors – George Cushing (American Legion)  
Board of Directors – Bo Bohach (Non-Commissioned Officers Assoc.)

Legislative report: Linda Fulkerson reported on the following:

- The committee is monitoring SCR 1030 – Property Tax Exemption; HCR 2002 – Tax Exemption, and SB 1035. All three pieces of legislation are as a result of the Research Council recommendations. Member organizations are asked to contact legislators insupport all three bills.
- The Social Security offset reduction for SBP has reached the maximum and has been eliminated.

Chairman Fredricks asked that the Legislative Committee to create criteria and processes to recognize an outstanding legislator each year. Gary suggested that the presentation could coincide with the Copper Sword award.

Ryan Burke, Liaison for Mayor Gordon asked that the membership be reminded about the Salute to Women Veterans taking place on Monday, April 8th, 5:00 p.m., at City Hall.

### **New Business**

Donna Adams suggested that a plaque be made for Camelback Jack in recognition of his on-going support of veterans. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the KOOL station manager to let him know of our appreciation of Camelback and to be present when the plaque is presented. The concept was approved by consensus.

### **Good of the Order**

Memorial Day services will be held at the National Cemetery May 26th at 8:00 a.m.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 with proper ceremonies to meet again May 3rd.

Donna Adams, Secretary